



Department of Justice

United States Attorney David L. Huber
Western District of Kentucky

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CONTACT: SANDY FOCKEN
PHONE: (502) 582-5911
FAX: (502) 582-5097

CONVICTED KENTUCKY METH TRAFFICKER PLEADS GUILTY TO ARMED METH MANUFACTURING

– Also admits to possessing a Hi-Point, Model C, 9 mm semi-automatic pistol

OWENSBORO, KY - Ryan J. Payne, age 24, of Philpot, Kentucky, pled guilty to manufacturing methamphetamine and being a felon in possession of a firearm, U.S. Attorney David L. Huber of the Western District of Kentucky, and Paul Vido, Special Agent in Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Louisville Field Division, jointly announced today.

Payne admitted that on or about April 7, 2005, he possessed List I chemicals (pseudoephedrine), materials and instruments (anhydrous ammonia filters and lithium strips) with the intent to manufacture methamphetamine. He also pled guilty to being a felon in possession of and possessing a Hi-Point Model C, 9 mm semi-automatic pistol in furtherance of a drug-trafficking crime.

On April 7, 2005, a methamphetamine laboratory was discovered on the second floor of a barn located on a farm owned by another person in Whitesville, Kentucky. Payne was discovered hiding in the loft of the barn. When the owner of the farm approached Payne, he jumped from behind a tank that was in the loft of the barn and ran out of the barn into a field. Detectives seized materials needed to manufacture methamphetamine, such as pseudoephedrine pills, digital scale, AA lithium batteries, coffee filters, glass containers, Liquid Fire, white

powder and other materials and chemicals needed to manufacture methamphetamine.

Additionally, night vision goggles and a Hi-Point Model C .9mm semi-automatic pistol with a magazine containing eight rounds of ammunition were seized.

Payne has a significant criminal history including a conviction for a June 6, 2005 arrest in Grayson County for trafficking in methamphetamine.

The maximum penalties are 55 years imprisonment, a \$1,000,000 fine, and supervised release for a period of 3 years.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Robert J. Kilmartin. The Bowling Green Field Office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) conducted the investigation in partnership with the Audubon Area Gun Task Force, as part of ATF's mandated mission to reduce violent crime and other threats to public safety.

The plea was entered before Joseph H. McKinley, Jr., Judge, United States District Court, Owensboro, Kentucky.

Payne is scheduled to be sentenced before Judge McKinley on April 25, 2008, at 9:00 a.m., in Owensboro, Kentucky.

This is a **Project Backfire** prosecution. **Project Backfire** is a partnership of state, local and federal law enforcement which targets violent offenders for prosecution to the fullest extent of state and federal law.

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